Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are undertaking huge capacity expansion of the existing steel units, in order to boost their steel production. SAIL is expanding its hot metal production capacity from 13.82 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 23.46 MTPA for completion by 2012-13. Similarly, RINL is also undertaking its capacity expansion from 3.0 MTPA of liquid steel to 6.3 MTPA for completion by 2011-12.

(c) Since projects of SAIL and RINL are planned for completion during the oncoming years, there will not be any capacity addition during the current year 2009-10.

Revival of Kudremukh iron-ore mines

1831. SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) when the Kudremukh iron-ore mines in the State of Karnataka was closed;

(b) the extent of financial loss incurred by way of rendering various constructions including pipelines constructed for purpose of transporting iron ore from the mines to Mangalore port and roads and buildings constructed for the purpose of mines useless and also the recurring loss every year;

(c) whether there is any proposal on the part of Government to revive the Kudremukh iron-ore mines; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) Consequent upon the verdict of Hon'ble Supreme Court, mining operations at Kudremukh Iron Ore Mines in Karnataka was stopped on 31st December, 2005.

(b) KIOCL Ltd. has written off Rs.71.65 crores during 2005-06, being the written down value of plant and machinery and building, as on the date of closure of Kudremukh Mine. KIOCL Ltd. is incurring an expenditure of around Rs.60 crores per annum on Kudremukh site towards salary and other amenities of employees posted at Kudremukh, security of plant and machinery and for maintenance of plant and equipment at Kudremukh.

(c) and (d) Restarting of Kudremukh mining activities cannot be undertaken without specific clearance from the Hon'ble Supreme Court, hence no specific time frame can be fixed for reopening of the mine.

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12.00 **Noon**

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2007-08) of NCPSL, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-